

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-24 (cancelled).

25 (currently amended). Method for the treatment of Onychoschizia in a patient in need of such treatment which method comprises the administration of administering to said patient a topical composition comprising:

- a) at least one herb extract from the genus Equisetum, and
- b) at least one film forming agent to a patient in needs of such a treatment.

26 (previously presented). Method according to claim 25, wherein said composition comprises c) at least one physiologically acceptable carrier.

27 (previously presented). Method according to claim 25, wherein said composition comprises d) at least one sulfur donor.

28 (currently amended). Method according to claim 25, wherein the component a) is selected from: Equisetum arvense in form of plant or part of plant, juice, dry extract, an alcoholic herb extract, and a hydroalcoholic herb extract or glycolic extract, or Equisetum hiemale in form of plant or part of plant, juice, dry extract, alcoholic extract, hydro-alcoholic extract or glycolic extract.

29 (currently amended). Method according to claim 25 28, wherein the component a) said alcoholic extract is a glycolic extract of Equisetum arvense.

30-47 (canceled).

48 (new). Method according to claim 28 wherein said extract is a dry herb extract.

49 (new). Method according to claim 25 wherein component a) is selected from *Equisetum arvense* and *Equisetum hiemale*.

50 (new). Method according to claim 49, wherein component a) is a glycolic extract of *Equisetum arvense*.

51 (new). Method according to claim 25, wherein component b) is a water-soluble film-forming agent.

52 (new). Method according to claim 51, wherein said water-soluble film-forming agent is a derivative of chitosan.

53 (new). Method according to claim 52, wherein said derivative of chitosan is selected from hydroxyalkyl chitosans and carboxyalkyl chitosans.

54 (new). Method according to claim 53, wherein said hydroxyalkyl chitosans are selected from chitosans which are derivatized with C₁₋₆ alkyl groups possessing 1 to 3 hydroxy groups.

55 (new). Method according to claim 54, wherein said hydroxyalkyl chitosan is hydroxypropyl chitosan.

56 (new). Method according to claim 53, wherein said carboxyalkyl chitosans are selected from chitosans which are derivatized with C₁₋₆ alkyl groups possessing 1 to 3 hydroxy groups.

57 (new). Method according to claim 53, wherein said carboxyalkyl chitosan is carboxymethyl chitosan.

58 (new). Method according to claim 26, wherein component c) is water or a mixture of water with at least one co-solvent.

59 (new). Method according to claim 58, wherein said co-solvent is an alcohol.

60 (new). Method according to claim 58, wherein said co-solvent is a branched or linear alcohol having 1 to 3 hydroxy groups and 2 to 6 carbon atoms.

61 (new). Method according to claim 60, wherein said alcohol is selected from ethanol, 1-propanol and isopropanol.

62 (new). Method according to claim 27, wherein component d) is selected from sulphated amino acids, derivatives thereof, 1-methionine, 1-cysteine, 1-cystine, taurine, 4-thiazolidinecarboxylic acid and methylsulphonylmethane.

63 (new). Method according to claim 25, wherein said composition comprises a compound selected from penetration enhancers, sedimentation retarders, chelating agents, antioxidants, silicates, aroma substances, wetting agents, lanolin derivates, light stabilizers and antibacterial substances.

64 (new). Method according to claim 25, wherein said composition comprises an additional active agent selected from antimycotic agents, antibiotic agents, anti-inflammatory agents, antiseptic agents and local anaesthetic agents.

65 (new). Method according to claim 25, wherein component a) is present in an amount of 0.1 to 15 % by weight of the total composition.

66 (new). Method according to claim 25, wherein component b) is present in an amount of 0.1 to 10% by weight of the total composition.

67 (new). Method according to claim 26, wherein component c) is present in an

amount of 40 to 99.8% by weight of the total composition.

68 (new). Method according to claim 67, wherein component c) contains water in an amount of 15 to 70 % by weight of component c).

69 (new). Method according to claim 27, wherein component d) is present in an amount from 0.1 to 20% by weight of the total composition.

70 (new). Method according to claim 25, wherein said composition essentially consists of:

- a) at least one herb extract from the genus Equisetum,
- b) at least one film forming agent,
- c) at least one physiologically acceptable carrier,
- d) at least one sulfur donor.

71 (new). Method according to claim 25, wherein said topical composition is applied to a nail.

72 (new). Method according to claim 65, wherein component a) is present in an amount of 0.3 to 15 % by weight of the total composition.

73 (new). Method according to claim 65, wherein component a) is present in an amount of 0.5 to 10 % by weight of the total composition.

74 (new). Method according to claim 66, wherein component b) is present in an amount of 0.3 to 8 % by weight of the total composition.

75 (new). Method according to claim 66, wherein component b) is present in an amount of 0.5 to 5 % by weight of the total composition.

76 (new). Method according to claim 67, wherein component c) is present in an amount of 60 to 99 % by weight of the total composition.

77 (new). Method according to claim 67, wherein component c) is present in an amount of 80 to 95 % by weight of the total composition.

78 (new). Method according to claim 68, wherein the water content in component c) is 30 to 65 % by weight of component c).

79 (new). Method according to claim 69, wherein component d) is present in an amount from 0.2 to 10 % by weight of the total composition.